the ceiling on export of cotton yarn. Some spinning mills have also represented for removal of export ceiling. Government allows export of cotton yarn within a limited ceiling so as to ensure adequate supplies at reasonable prices to the domestic sector including decentralized powerloom and handloom weavers. In view of higher overseas demand and the record cotton production in the country, Government recently raised the ceiling fixed for export of cotton yarn during 1990 from 40 million Kgs. to 70 million Kgs. The exports of cotton have also been allowed so as to pass on the benefit of higher international prices to cotton growers.

Exemption of Foot-valves from Excise duty

3390. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fully exempted Foot-valves, an essential component of pipe fittings of certain specifications from the purview of excise duty with a view to promitting efficiency of agricultural pumps, in the Union Budget for 1990-91;

(b) whether it is a fact that M. S. Couplings, also known as Socket, are also an essential component of pipe fittings used in agricultural pumps;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which Sockets have not been exempted as a whole from the purview of excise duty;

(d) whether West Bengal Socket Manufactures Association, Howrah have made representations for exempting M. S. Couplings (Sockets) from the purview of excise duty; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) Government have exempted foot-valves of certain ISI specifications, which are generally used in centrifugal pumps for agricultural purposes.

(b) to (e) M. S. Coupling have multifarious uses apart from their use in agricultural pumps. Government had received representations from the West Bengal Socket Manufacturers Association, Howrah for exempting M. S. Couplings (Sockets) from excise duty. Their request was examined but was not acceded to.

Introduction of Franking Machines in various departments of Government of India

3391. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether, in the wake of economy in non-Plan expenditure launched by his Ministry, he has at any stage considered the expediency of introducing Franking Machines in all the Ministries and Departments, Attached and Subordinate Officials; nationalised banks, insurance corporations and in all other big public sector undertakings with a view to cut down expenditure on import of paper for printing of stamps, and other incidentals pertaining thereto; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) and (b) Although Ministry of Finance have not issued any instructions in this regard, the Department of Posts have, from time to time, issued Circulars to all Ministries/Departments/State Governments stressing the advantage of using Franking Machines particularly from the angle of curbing expenditure on use of paper for printing of stamps etc.

Workers' Participation in the management of ITDC

3392. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details and outlines of the scheme as introduced by the ITDC Management in pursuance of Governments decision regarding workers' participation in the Management;

(b) the names of the ITDC units/departments/activities and the manner in which the workers' participative scheme is being implemented there till date; and

(c) the date from which the scheme is being implemented and the election/nomination of the respective bodies that took place last in each unit/division of ITDC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK) : (a)

ITDC Management has introduced a scheme for Workers' Participation in Management in its units having a strength of 100 or more employees on the lines of the scheme published in Part I Section I of the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 4-1-77. The main features of the scheme functions of the Unit Councils are given in the enclosed Statement-I. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Details about the names of ITDC Units in which the scheme as enumerated at (a) above has been introduced, date of its introduction in each Unit, date of election/nomination last held and the number of meetings held by each Unit are given in the statement II (*See* below)

Statement I

Main Features of the Workers' Participation Scheme in ITDC

UNIT COUNCILS :

The main features of the Scheme of Workers' participation through unit level councils may be as follows :—

(i) A Unit level council consisting of the workers and management of the organisation/service may be formed generally in each unit, employing 100 or more persons, to discuss day to day problems and solutions, but, wherever necessary, a composite council may be formed to serve more than one unit or a council may be formed departmentwise to suit the particular needs of an organisation/service.

(ii) Every unit council shall consist of an equal number of representatives of the management and workers. The actual number of members should be determined by the management in consultation with the recognised Union, registered unions of the workers in the manner best suited to the local conditions obtaining in a unit or an organisation, but their total number may not exceed 12. It would be necessary to nominate suitable and experienced worker from various departments irrespective of their cadre, affiliation or status, and not trade Union functionaries who may not be actually working in the Unit.

(iii) The managements representatives should be nominated by the management and should consist of persons from the unit concerned.

(iv) The Management shall decide in consultation with the recognised Union or the registered unions or the workers as the case may be, in the manner best suited to local conditions, the number of unit councils and the departments to be attached to each council of the organisation/service.

(v) All decisions of unit council shall be on the basis of consensus and not by a process of voting, provided that either party may refer the unsettled matters to the joint council for consideration.

(iv) Every decision of a unit council shall be implemented by the parties concerned within a month unless otherwise stated in the decision itself.

(vii) The management shall make suitable arrangements for the recording and maintenance of minutes of the meetings and designate one of its representatives as Secretary for this purpose who shall also report the action taken on the decisions at subsequent meetings of the Council.

(viii) Such divisions of a unit council which have a bearing on another unit or the organisation/service as a whole shall be referred to the Joint Council for consideration and decision.

(ix) A unit council once formed shall function for a period of two years. Any member nominated or elected to the council in the mid-term to fill a casual vacancy shall continue to be a member of the council for the unexpired portion of the term of the council.

(x) The council shall meet as frequently as is necessary but at least once in a month.

(xi) The Chairman of the council shall be a nominee of the management, the worker-member of the Council shall elect a Vice-Chairman from amongst themselves.

Functions of Unit Councils in ITDC Units

The main functions of the unit level councils may be :

(i) to create conditions for achieveing optimum efficiency, better customer service in areas where there is direct and immediate contact between the workers at the operational level and the consumer, higher productivity and output including elimination of wastage and idle time and optimum utilisation of manpower by joint involvement in improving the work system;

(ii) to identify areas of chronically bad, inadequate or improper service and to take necessary corrective steps to eliminate the contributing factors with a view to evolving improved methods of operation;

(iii) to study absenteeism and recommend steps to reduce it;

(iv) to maintain discipline in the unit;

(v) to eliminate pilferage and all forms of corruption and to institute a system of rewards for this purpose;

(vi) to suggest improvements in physical conditions of working such as lighting, ventilation, dust, noise, cleanliness, internal layout to counters, setting up of koisks and customers service points etc.;

(vii) to ensure proper flow of adequate two-way communication between the management and the workers, particularly matters relating to the service to be rendered, fixation of targets of output and progress in achieving these targets;

(viii) to recommend and improve safety, health and welfare measures for efficient running of the unit;

(ix) to discuss any other matters which may have a bearing on the improvement of performance of the unit for ensuring better customer service.

Statement—II

Name of the ITDC Units in which the Scheme of Workers Participation in Management has been Introduced

Sl. No.	Name of the unit	Date of Introduction	Date of Elections Nomination last held	Number of Meetings held
1.	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi. .	July 1977	Dec. 1987	36
2.	Hotel Varanasi Ashok, Varanasi	May 1985	May, 1985	7
3.	Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort Kovalam	May 1980	Jan. 1986	7
4.	Hotel Janpath, New Delhi .	July, 1977	May, 1986	11
5.	Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi .	Nov. 1985	Nov. 1985	4
6.	Qutab Hotel, New Delhi .	May 1977	May 1985	7
7.	Hotel, Ranjit, New Delhi .	Aug. 1977	April 1986	12
8.	Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi	Aug. 1986	March 1989	7
9.	Hotel Samrat, New Delhi .	June 1986	July 1987	7
10.	Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi .	Sept. 1986	Sept. 1986	6
11.	Hotel Ashok, Bangalore . .	Oct. 1985	Oct. 1985	8
12.	Transport Unit (North), New Delhi	March 1982	May 1984	19
13.	Agra Ashok, Agra . . .	April 1988	Aprl 1988	3